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REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated March 17, 2004, the Examiner states that Claims 1 and 3-17 are pending, Claims 1,3-5, 12 and 13 are rejected, Claim 6-11, 14 and 15 are objected to, and Claims 16 and 17 are allowed. By the present Amendment, Applicants amend the claims.

On May 12, 2004 the undersigned attorney had an interview with the Examiner to discuss a proposed amended Claim 1 in which a single tapping c rcult is specified. The Examiner indicated that this Amendment would not make the claim allowable since the cited reference Takada et al. teaches the use of a single lapping circuit.

In the Office Action, Claims 6-11, 14 and 15 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants have cancelled the previous Clains 1-15 and introduce new claims rewritten to be based upon this indicated allowable subject matter. Independent Claim 18 is based upon previous Claim 6. Claim 25 is based upon previous Claim 7. Independent Claim 29 is based upon previous Claim 14. Independent Claim 35 is based upon previous Claim 15. Each of the new dependent claims is based upon previous dependent claims. No new subject matter has been introduced into the new claims. As such, the Applicants consider each of the new claims allowable, and that there is no need for further consideration and/or search by the Examiner with respect to these new claims.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0400 in the amount of \$176 to cover the fee for the extra independent claim and five claims in excess of twenty.

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In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in better condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

June 7, 2004 Date Respectfully submitted.

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